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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, MX

SUBJECT: US-MEXICO CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING

REF: US-MEXICO DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OF
MAY 3, 1968

1. THE REFERENCED 1968 AGREEMENT (EXCHANGE OF NOTES)
CREATED A BILATERAL COMMITTEE TO PROPOSE MEASURES TO BE
TAKEN BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE EVENT OF CIVIL
DISASTERS, BUT THE AGREEMENT HAS LONG BEEN DORMANT AND THERE
HAVE BEEN NO COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR SOME YEARS.

2. EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT LEARNED THAT IN THE
WAKE OF SEVERE FLOODING IN TIJUANA, STATE OFFICIALS FROM
CALIFORNIA AND BAJA CALIFORNIA WISHED TO RENEW BINATIONAL
COOPERATION UNDER THE AGREEMENT, REVISING IT TO ADD A ROLE
FOR GOVERNMENT COOPERATION AT THE STATE LEVEL. DURING THE
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SAME PERIOD, THE FEDERAL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY SHOWED INTEREST
IN RENEWING US-MEXICO EFFORTS IN CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING.

3. FYI: BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN INCOMPLETE COORDINATION
BETWEEN GOM AND BAJA CALIFORNIA OFFICIALS ON THIS ISSUE,
THE U.S. SIDE DID NOT RAISE IT DURING THE MAY SESSION OF
THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM IN MEXICO CITY. SINCE THEN,

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HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN OFFICIAL FROM GOVERNOR DE LA MADRID'S OFFICE HAS EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH MANUEL VASQUEZ IN THE FORSEC (AND, POSSIBLY, BARTLETT HAS BEEN INFORMED) ON THE QUESTION OF RENEWED US-MEXICO EMERGENCY PLANNING/COOPERATION. END FYI.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY APPROACH TO FORSEC WITH FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO SEE A RENEWAL OF BINATIONAL COOPERATION ON DISASTER RELIEF PLANNING.

-- OUR FEDERAL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY IS READY, THROUGH THE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM, TO REACTIVATE AND, PERHAPS, TO EXPAND CONTACTS AND COOPERATION WITH MEXICAN AGENCIES IN THE AREA OF CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING.

-- IF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AGREES, THE U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AT A FUTURE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH SIDES, TIME AND PLACE OF THE MEETING TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON. VANCE

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